

the week. One of his goals in serving as a leader in public television has been to creatively provide a quality alternative to commercial television. Not only has Mitch Fox worked to build bridges within the broadcast community, but he has also helped lower the high school drop-out rate over the past 20 years by assisting the Clark County School District in developing distance learning programs for K-12 students.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to pay tribute to my friend Mitch Fox for his longstanding service and dedication to the public broadcasting system and to the communities of Nevada. I wish him the best in all of his future endeavors.

---

HONORING ALBERT RANDEL  
HENDRIX

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 8, 2006*

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, an enduring member of Mississippi's healthcare community will soon be retiring from his position as Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Mental Health. Dr. Albert Randel Hendrix has contributed decades of time, energy, and passion into serving his community, State, and individuals with mental health needs. Mississippi will miss his service.

Dr. Randy Hendrix is a native Mississippian, born and educated in Panola County. He served in our armed forces in Vietnam from 1969 to 1970. Following his Army discharge, Dr. Hendrix returned to Mississippi to complete graduate studies at the University of Mississippi, where he completed his Master's Degree in 1971, and at the University of Southern Mississippi, where he completed his doctoral degree in 1979. Dr. Hendrix has completed the Executive Education Program at Duke University, the Executive Development Institute of the John C. Stennis Institute of Government at Mississippi State University, and the Certified Public Managers Program.

He began his professional career with the Department of Mental Health at Ellisville State School in 1971. In 1975, Dr. Hendrix was appointed Director of the North Mississippi Regional Center in Oxford, Mississippi. At the age of 28, he was the youngest director of a major facility in the Nation. While in Oxford, he was also a professor of Special Education and an adjunct professor in Healthcare Administration at the University of Mississippi. In November of 1986, Dr. Hendrix assumed responsibilities as Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Mental Health, the State's largest agency. Dr. Hendrix is the longest serving Executive Director of Mental Health services in the Nation and will be retiring soon.

During his career with the Department of Mental Health, Dr. Hendrix has served on many Boards and Commissions including Chairman of the Mississippi Developmental Disabilities Council, member on the Governor's Council on Aging, and is currently the chairman and longest serving member of the Mississippi Board of Rehabilitative Services, past chairman and member of the State Interagency Coordinating Council for Children and Youth with Severe Emotional Problems, Member of the Mississippi Disability Resource

Commission, Children's Trust Fund Advisory Council and Statewide CDC Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Planning Advisory Committee. He is a member and former officer of the Mississippi Chapter of the American Association on Mental Deficiency, Board Member of the Association of Mental Health Administrators since 1987, and has served as Executive Director for the Mississippi Arts Fair for the Handicapped since 1980.

Dr. Hendrix was selected as State Administrator of the Year, Herman C. Glazier Award Winner in 1990, recipient of the Agency Leadership Award of the National Association of Superintendents of Public Residential Facilities for the Mentally Retarded in 1992, recipient of the Governor's Stennis Award for Excellence in Government in 1994, and selected for Honorary Membership in Pi Alpha Alpha in 1997. Dr. Hendrix is also a member of the Honorary Scholastic Organization of Phi Theta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi, and Phi Delta Kappa.

Dr. Hendrix and his wife, Sandy, are the parents of 4 children, Jo Ellen Hendrix Townsend, Sarah, Randel, and Sandra and the grandparents of Grace, Jessica and Jeffrey Townsend.

For over 30 years, Dr. Hendrix has used his talent, knowledge, and skills to make Mississippi a better place and enhance the care of individuals with mental health concerns. We thank him for his service and know that even after his retirement, he will continue to be a pillar of his community and his State.

---

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE  
LANE EVANS, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

SPEECH OF

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 7, 2006*

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Congressman LANE EVANS, who is retiring after serving this institution honorably for 24 years.

As Ranking Member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, Rep. EVANS has served not only his 17th District constituents, but he has also been the voice for veterans nationwide. As a Marine and Vietnam veteran, Rep. EVANS had a deep and abiding understanding of veterans' issues and a keen sense of the unique issues affecting Vietnam veterans, like Agent Orange. He has been a tireless advocate for improving veterans' health care and benefits and was not afraid to challenge the Veterans Administration if he thought they were short-changing veterans' programs, particularly VA services for homeless veterans.

He shone a bright light on the horrific problems of antipersonnel land mines and authored the first law prohibiting the export of landmines which ultimately led to the awarding of the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize to the International Campaign to Ban Land Mines. His legacy on landmines has saved countless lives around the globe.

It is with a heavy heart that I bid farewell to Rep. LANE EVANS, one of the most dedicated and principled public servants that I have ever had the privilege to serve with. Semper Fi.

HONORING DR. PATRICK  
MCKIERNAN

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 8, 2006*

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Patrick McKiernan, a remarkable public servant and advocate from my home State of Kentucky. Dr. McKiernan presently serves as Outreach Coordinator to Homeless Veterans for the Kentucky Department of Veteran Affairs.

Tragically, more than 1,000 veterans will be sleeping on the streets of Kentucky tonight. Dr. McKiernan recognizes that there is something fundamentally wrong when individuals who once wore the uniform of the United States are forced by circumstances to live on the streets. Under his compassionate leadership, the Kentucky Department of Veteran Affairs continues to work to establish special assistance programs to help get veterans off the streets and into housing or treatment facilities.

Dr. McKiernan represents his agency on the Kentucky Council on Homeless Policy, advising the Governor and his staff on homelessness and housing issues across the state. He also represents Kentucky Department of Veteran Affairs at the annual conference of the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans in Washington, DC, and the Homeless and Housing Coalition of Kentucky.

In addition to his current work and responsibilities, Dr. McKiernan is developing plans to establish the Homeless Veterans Coordination Committee to provide additional guidance and support to help homeless veterans.

Dr. McKiernan's colleagues, and countless veterans touched by his exemplary work, note his unique ability to navigate bureaucracy and successfully resolve casework with unusual expedience. Recently, Dr. McKiernan intervened in a case involving a veteran afflicted with esophageal cancer who nearly became homeless due to the financial challenges of his illness. Because of his efforts, an American hero is receiving the care and assistance that he deserves. This is but one example in a long career of helping others.

It is my great honor to recognize Dr. Patrick McKiernan today before my assembled colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives. His leadership and service make him an outstanding American worthy of our collective honor and appreciation.

---

RECOGNIZING MARK CLEMONS

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 8, 2006*

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a business in my district that is taking a positive step forward to assist families and our troops overseas.

Mark Clemons operates the PakMail facility in my district in Newnan, and he has taken up a special project for our troops and their families overseas. Any time anyone wants to send a package to Iraq to a soldier, Mark makes sure that they do not have to pay for it.

Mark has taken it as a special project to ensure our heroes overseas receive the care